

1902-03

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THIRTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE COMMISSIONERS

OF THE

FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND

OF

MASSACHUSETTS.

1903.



BOSTON :

WRIGHT & POTTER PRINTING CO., STATE PRINTERS,

18 POST OFFICE SQUARE.

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APPROVED BY
THE STATE BOARD OF PUBLICATION.

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COMMISSIONERS OF THE FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND
OF MASSACHUSETTS.

JAMES C. CROMBIE, *Chairman.*

CHARLES S. PAISLER, *Secretary.*

[Appointed by the Governor.]

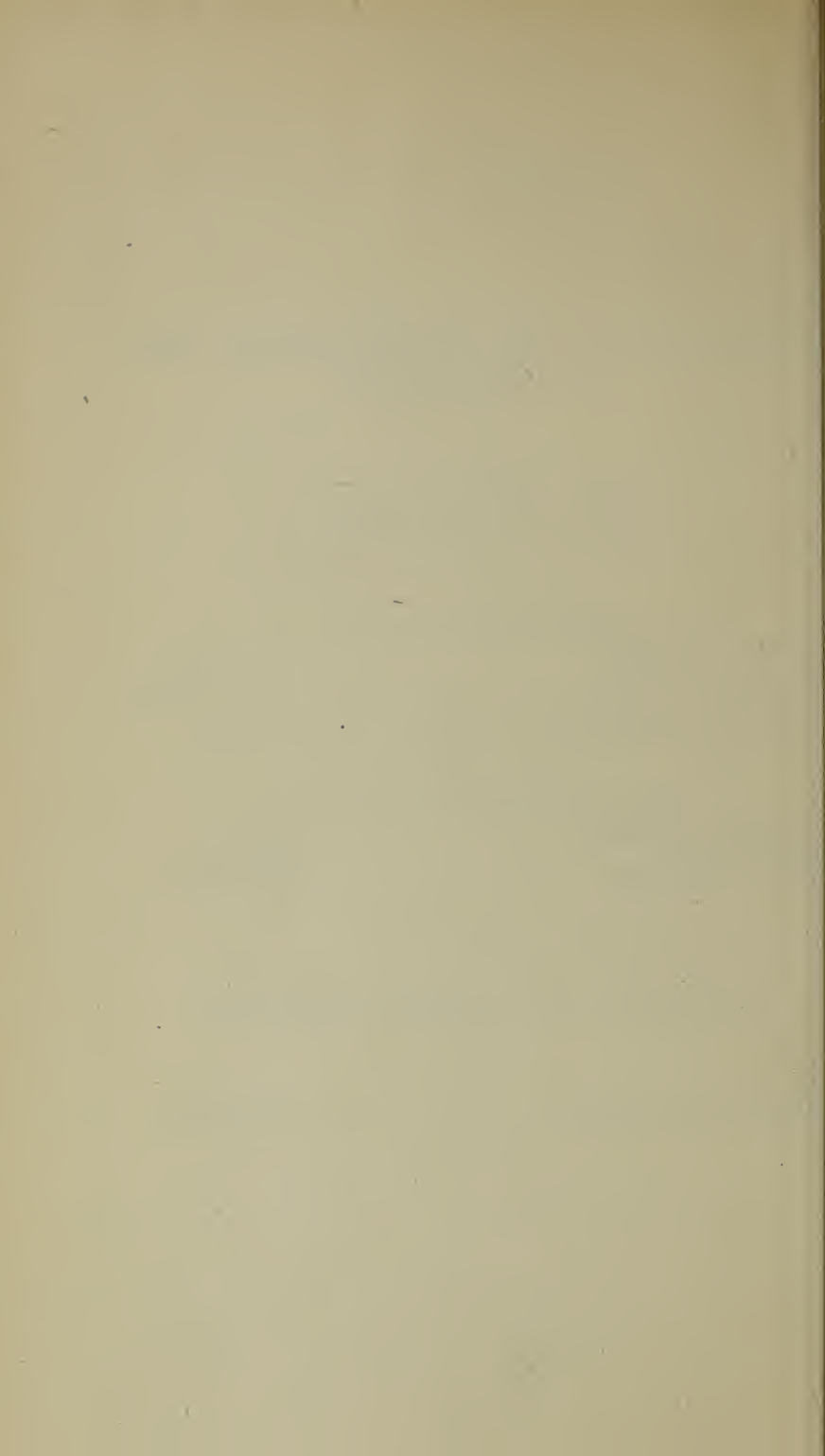
JAMES C. CROMBIE, LAWRENCE.
CHARLES S. PAISLER, NEW BEDFORD.
CLIFFORD H. PLUMMER, BOSTON.

[Elected by State Firemen's Association.]

EDWARD S. HOSMER, LOWELL.
FRED A. CHENEY, HAVERHILL.

TREASURER STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

HIRAM R. WILLIAMSON, WORCESTER.



Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

REPORT.

To His Excellency JOHN L. BATES, *Governor of the Commonwealth.*

The Board of Commissioners of the Firemen's Relief Fund presents herewith its report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1903, the same being the thirteenth annual report since its establishment.

Through the liberality of the Legislature in increasing the appropriation from \$10,000 to \$12,000, the Board is, for the first time since 1898, enabled to show a substantial balance unexpended. Included in the expenditures are 37 claims brought over from the previous year, aggregating \$1,380.50.

MINOR CHILDREN.

No portion of the money paid is more beneficial or far reaching in its results than the weekly allotment to minor children of deceased firemen, and it is a feature that should be maintained even at a sacrifice in other directions. The method of payment adopted by the treasurer has enabled him to keep in touch with each individual case, and the good that is being accomplished cannot be overestimated.

DISBURSEMENT TO WIDOWS.

With the enactment of chapter 32, section 77, Revised Laws, providing for the payment by the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of the sum of \$1,000 to the widow or dependents when a fireman is killed or dies within sixty days from injuries received while in the performance of his duties, an allowance of \$400, known as a death benefit, was discon-

tinued by this Board. This was not done until Attorney-General Parker had rendered a carefully prepared opinion, stating that the granting or withholding was optional. With constantly increasing demands upon the fund, it was felt that if any retrenchment were to be made it would be least a hardship to those who had already been provided for through another channel. Any special case involving great distress could still be eligible for consideration without an arbitrary rule making payment in all cases compulsory. The justice and wisdom of this arrangement cannot fail to commend itself to any unbiased person.

CLAIMS FOR INJURIES.

The same per diem allowance of \$1 and \$1.50 respectively to permanent and call firemen injured in the discharge of their duties has been continued. In rare instances this payment may prove an incentive to a prolonged absence from the service, but the great majority of firemen are honest, and resume their positions at the earliest possible moment.

SECRETARY OF BOARD.

To Secretary Charles S. Paisler much praise should be given for the systematic keeping of the records. In fact, so methodical are they that they would serve as a model for any commission. They have been available at all times for any critic or person desirous of information.

RECOMMENDATIONS.

The Board as at present constituted consists of five members, three of whom are appointed by His Excellency the Governor and two elected by the State Firemen's Association. To reduce the number to three members, two of whom should be appointed by the Governor and one elected by the State Association, would in no way detract from its efficiency, and would reduce the expense of disbursement.

CONCLUSION.

With the ending of this fiscal year the members on the part of the Commonwealth have declined a reappointment to the positions they have occupied upon this Board from

its inception. It is their desire to express to His Excellency the Governor their deep and lasting appreciation for the cordial treatment and numerous courtesies accorded them.

To various chiefs of departments, and especially to Col. Henry S. Russell, the efficient commissioner of the Boston department, from which naturally comes the largest number of demands, they extend sincere thanks for co-operation in safe-guarding the interests of the Commonwealth, and, at the same time, doing justice to worthy claimants.

Appended is a tabulated statement, showing amounts allowed during the year for accidents and fatalities in various cities and towns of the State, with the causes of same; a list giving the number of minor children drawing from the fund, together with a record of the total disbursements each year from 1890 to June 30, 1903.

Respectfully submitted, for the Board,

J. C. CROMBIE,

Chairman.

STATISTICS.

The following table shows the number of claims and amount allowed to cities and towns for injured firemen:—

LIST OF CLAIMS ALLOWED JUNE 25, 1902, AND PAID FROM THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JULY 1, 1902.

CITY OR TOWN.	Number of Claims.	Amount.	CITY OR TOWN.	Number of Claims.	Amount.
Boston, . . .	10	\$362 00	Needham, . . .	1	\$75 00
Brockton, . . .	1	126 00	Orange, . . .	2	27 00
Brookfield, . . .	1	150 00	Quincy, . . .	1	31 50
Danvers, . . .	1	15 00	Randolph, . . .	1	63 00
Holyoke, . . .	1	44 00	Springfield, . . .	1	11 00
Lawrence, . . .	1	16 00	Worcester, . . .	10	237 50
Milford, . . .	1	15 00	Waltham, . . .	3	72 00
Marlborough, . . .	1	42 00			
Newton, . . .	1	31 50		37	\$1,318 50

LIST OF CLAIMS FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1903.

Claims considered,	200
Claims allowed,	192
Claims rejected,	6
Claims laid over for investigation,	2

CITY OR TOWN.	Number of Claims.	Amount.	CITY OR TOWN.	Number of Claims.	Amount.
Athol, . . .	1	\$43 50	Medway, . . .	1	\$15 00
Andover, . . .	1	24 00	New Bedford, . . .	2	63 00
Arlington, . . .	1	24 50	Newburyport, . . .	2	34 50
Attleborough, . . .	1	150 00	Natick, . . .	3	120 00
Brockton, . . .	1	37 50	Newton, . . .	1	7 00
Braintree, . . .	1	37 50	North Adams, . . .	1	21 00
Boston, . . .	63	1,824 50	Peabody, . . .	1	67 50
Cambridge, . . .	7	94 50	Quincy, . . .	3	174 00
Chelsea, . . .	1	49 00	Stoughton, . . .	3	57 00
Chicopee Falls, . . .	1	34 50	Somerville, . . .	5	217 50
Danvers, . . .	2	174 00	Stoneham, . . .	2	84 00
Fitchburg, . . .	4	72 00	Salem, . . .	4	164 00
Fall River, . . .	3	152 50	Taunton, . . .	4	196 50
Haverhill, . . .	6	273 00	Wakefield, . . .	1	16 50
Holyoke, . . .	8	315 50	West Springfield, . . .	1	12 00
Hudson, . . .	4	145 50	Winchester, . . .	1	21 00
Hingham, . . .	1	9 00	Watertown, . . .	1	36 00
Lowell, . . .	6	198 50	Webster, . . .	1	15 00
Lawrence, . . .	2	54 00	Ware, . . .	1	12 00
Leominster, . . .	1	18 00	Weymouth, . . .	1	21 00
Lynn, . . .	8	393 00	Worcester, . . .	19	562 00
Malden, . . .	3	120 00			
Milton, . . .	1	30 00		192	\$6,378 00
Medford, . . .	3	50 50			
Marlborough, . . .	4	136 50	Total, . . .	—	\$7,696 50

CAUSES OF INJURY.

Burns,	28	Fractured hand,	1
Breaking of derrick,	1	Fractured leg,	1
Cut by glass,	22	Fractured finger,	1
Cut by ax,	3	Horse stepping on foot,	4
Cinder in eye,	2	Hot-air explosion,	2
Cotton hook in hand,	1	Hose bursting,	1
Explosion of naphtha gas,	4	Hot iron,	1
Explosion of boiler,	1	Kicked by horse,	2
Explosion of hand chemical,	1	Ladder spike in foot,	1
Explosion of gas,	1	Nail in foot,	3
Engine horse runaway,	1	Overturning hose wagon,	7
Eye injured by stream of water,	1	Overturning engine,	1
Falling in attempt to get on wagon,	8	Piece of metal from spanner run into hand,	1
Falling on sidewalk,	8	Run over by ladder truck,	3
Falling from ladder,	6	Run over by hose wagon,	2
Falling of building,	5	Run over by wagon,	1
Falling down stairs,	5	Sprained back,	10
Falling of floor,	4	Sprained ankle,	6
Falling of chimney,	4	Sprained knee,	2
Falling through hole in the floor,	3	Sprained shoulder,	2
Falling through hatchway,	2	Sprained hand,	1
Falling slate,	2	Sprained thumb,	1
Falling of plank,	2	Sprained wrist,	1
Falling from roof,	2	Sprained leg,	1
Falling on ice,	2	Struck in back by pole of engine,	1
Falling of board,	1	Struck by hose coupling,	1
Falling of ceiling,	1	Shock from charge gas pipe,	1
Falling of rock,	1	Sliding down pole in engine house,	3
Falling from electric car,	1	Thrown from hose wagon,	11
Falling from window,	1	Thrown from bicycle,	7
Falling in hole on sidewalk,	1	Thrown from engine,	4
Falling of roof,	1	Thrown from ladder truck,	4
Falling into elevator well,	1	Thrown from wagon,	2
Falling over telephone wire,	1	Thrown from chief wagon,	2
Falling on curbstone,	1	Thrown from coal wagon,	1
Foot caught in railroad crossing,	1	Thrown from chemical engine,	1
Foot caught in iron hoop,	1	Thrown from sleigh,	1
Foot caught under axle of engine,	1	Thrown down by horse,	1
Foot frozen,	1	Taking horse from wagon,	2
Fractured rib,	2		
Fracture of right clavicle,	1		

The following table shows the number of minor children entitled to benefit from the Firemen's Relief Fund, Massachusetts, in the several cities and towns, for the year ending June 30, 1903, together with the aggregate amounts allowed : —

CITY OR TOWN.	Number of Beneficiaries.	Amount.	CITY OR TOWN.	Number of Beneficiaries.	Amount.
Boston, . .	13	\$1,352 00	Lynn, . .	5	\$472 00
Fall River, .	1	48 00	Rockland, .	1	104 00
Foxborough, .	2	208 00	Somerville, .	3	312 00
Hanover, . .	2	208 00	Worcester, .	2	148 00
Haverhill, .	1	104 00	Total, . .	37	\$3,226 00
Hudson, . .	7	270 00			

DISBURSEMENTS FROM JULY 1, 1890, TO JULY 1, 1903.

FOR THE YEAR ENDING JULY 1.	Expenditure.	Balance in Favor of Commonwealth.
1891,	\$5,827 65	\$4,172 35
1892,	9,724 10	275 90
1893,	8,911 40	1,088 60
1894,	8,422 11	1,577 89
1895,	9,617 06	382 94
1896,	9,406 76	593 24
1897,	8,922 47	1,077 53
1898,	7,314 63	2,685 37
1899,	9,998 62	1 38*
1900,	10,008 13	2 87†
1901,	10,000 00	-‡
1902,	9,999 96	04§
1903,	11,540 19	459 81
	\$119,693 08	\$12,317 92

* Claims to the amount of \$786 carried over to July 1, 1899.

† Claims to the amount of \$773.50 paid from the treasury of the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association.

‡ Claims to the amount of \$741 carried over to July 1, 1901.

§ Claims to the amount of \$1,443.50 carried over to July 1, 1902.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

WORCESTER, MASS., July 1, 1903.

To the Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

I have the honor of presenting this my thirteenth annual report of the receipts and expenditures as treasurer of the fund for the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association, appropriated by the State and administered in conformity therewith.

RECEIPTS.

1902.

July 3. Received of Hon. Edward S. Bradford, Treasurer of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, for the benefit of the Firemen's Relief Fund of Massachusetts (chapter 108, under the act of Feb. 25, 1902),	\$12,000 00
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EXPENDITURES.

CR.

Paid 3,253 days' injury benefits to call men, at \$1.50 per day,	\$4,879 50
2,943 days' injury benefits to permanent men, at \$1 per day,	2,943 00
1,613 weeks' benefit for minor children, at \$2 per week,	3,226 00
expense account,	491 69
	\$11,540 19
Balance due the Commonwealth,	459 81
	\$12,000 00

Respectfully submitted,

HIRAM R. WILLIAMSON,

Treasurer.

LEGISLATION.

[REVISED LAWS, CHAPTER 32.]

FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND.

SECTION 71. The sum of ten thousand dollars shall annually, before the first day of July, be paid by the treasurer and receiver general to the treasurer of the Massachusetts state firemen's association out of the money received from taxes on fire insurance companies doing business in this commonwealth, and it shall be known as the firemen's relief fund of Massachusetts.

SECTION 72. The treasurer of said association shall give a bond in the sum of ten thousand dollars with sureties approved by the treasurer and receiver general conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties.

SECTION 73. Such fund shall be used for the relief of firemen, whether members of said association or not, who may be injured in the performance of their duty at a fire or in going to or returning from the same, and for the relief of the widows and children of firemen killed in the performance of such duty, in the manner and to the amount determined by a board of five persons, three of whom, not members of said association, shall be appointed by the governor, and two of whom shall be appointed by said association.

SECTION 74. Officers and members in active service in all incorporated protective departments co-operating with fire departments, and any person performing the duties of a fireman in a town having no organized fire department, shall be entitled to the benefits thereof.

SECTION 75. The unexpended balance of said fund for the preceding year shall be returned to the treasurer and receiver general before the fifteenth day of July in each year, with a detailed report, under oath, of the expenditure of such fund.

SECTION 76. Five hundred dollars may be allowed from said fund for the incidental expenses of said board, but no part thereof shall be expended for any other expenses or for salaries.

SECTION 77. If a fireman in a regularly organized fire department of a city or town, or any officer or member in active service

of any incorporated protective department acting in concert with fire departments, or a person doing fire duty at the request or by the order of the authorities of a town which has no organized fire department, or a person performing the duties of a fireman in such town, is killed, or dies within sixty days from injuries received, while in the performance of his duties, and his death is certified by the city or town clerk and the attending physician or medical examiner to the treasurer and receiver general, he shall pay to the executor or administrator of such fireman, out of the money received from taxes on fire insurance companies doing business in this commonwealth, the sum of one thousand dollars for the use equally of his widow and minor children; or if there are minor children but no widow, to their use; or if there is no minor child, to the use of the widow; and if there is no widow or minor child, to the use of the next of kin if dependent on such deceased fireman for support. A child of full age dependent upon such fireman for support shall be regarded as a minor child.

[ACTS OF 1902, CHAPTER 108.]

AN ACT TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL PAYMENT BY THE STATE TO THE
MASSACHUSETTS STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section seventy-one of chapter thirty-two of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by striking out the word "ten", in the first line, and inserting in place thereof the word:—twelve,—so as to read as follows:—*Section 71.* The sum of twelve thousand dollars shall annually, before the first day of July, be paid by the treasurer and receiver general to the treasurer of the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association out of the money received from taxes on fire insurance companies doing business in this Commonwealth, and it shall be known as the Firemen's Relief Fund of Massachusetts.

SECTION 2. Section seventy-two of said chapter is hereby amended by striking out the word "ten", in the second line, and inserting in place thereof the word:—twelve,—so as to read as follows:—*Section 72.* The treasurer of said association shall give a bond in the sum of twelve thousand dollars with sureties approved by the treasurer and receiver general conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved February 25, 1902.

[ACTS OF 1902, CHAPTER 203.]

AN ACT MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE
FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. The sum of twelve thousand dollars is hereby appropriated, to be paid out of the treasury of the Commonwealth from the ordinary revenue, for the Massachusetts State Firemen's Association, as provided for by chapter one hundred and eight of the acts of the year nineteen hundred and two.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved March 19, 1902.

[ACTS OF 1903, CHAPTER 253.]

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF
THE FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND.

Be it enacted, etc., as follows:

SECTION 1. Section seventy-three of chapter thirty-two of the Revised Laws is hereby amended by striking out the whole of said section and inserting in place thereof the following: — *Section 73.* Such fund shall be used for the relief of firemen, whether members of said association or not, who may be injured in the performance of their duty at a fire or in going to or returning from the same, and for the relief of the widows and children of firemen killed in the performance of such duty, in the manner and to the amount determined by a board of five persons, of whom three, not members of said association, shall be appointed by the governor in July of the year nineteen hundred and three, to serve, one for three years, one for two years and one for one year; and one shall be appointed in July of each year thereafter to serve for the full term of three years, and two shall be appointed by said association in such manner as it may from time to time determine.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Approved April 17, 1903.

COMMISSIONERS OF THE FIREMEN'S RELIEF FUND
OF MASSACHUSETTS.
1903-1904.

GEORGE F. HARWOOD, *Chairman.*
D. ARTHUR BURT, *Secretary.*

[Appointed by the Governor]

GEORGE F. HARWOOD, LYNN, . . . Term expires July 1, 1906.
BENJAMIN W. WELLS, BOSTON, . . . " " " 1905.
FRED W. JENNESS, LOWELL, . . . " " " 1904.

[Elected by State Firemen's Association.]

EDWARD S. HOSMER, LOWELL, . . . Term expires Sept 1, 1905.
FRED A. CHENEY, HAVERHILL, . . . " " " 1904.

TREASURER STATE FIREMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

HIRAM R. WILLIAMSON, WORCESTER.

